

Confession of Faith

OF THE

ROMAN CATHOLICKS in IRELAND.

For the refusing of which,

Many Protestants are Persecuted, others who cannot swallow their damnable Principles which are imposed on them, fly into England, and are kindly relieved by His Majesty's Subjects.

I. **W**E Acknowledge and Confess, that by the singular Care of our supreme Magistrates, Spiritual and Temporal, and by them and the diligence of the Lord of the Country, J. T. we are only deduced from the Heretical way and faith, to the true Roman Catholick and saving way; and that we embrace the same freely and voluntarily without any force or compulsion, and we would have all the World to take notice hereof.

II. We Confess the Pope of *Rome* to be the Head of the Church, and that he cannot Err.

III. We Confess, and are sure that the Pope of *Rome* is Vicar of Christ, and that he hath full power at his pleasure over all Men, of Forgiving and Retaining Sin, and of Excommunicating and Casting into Hell.

IV. We Confess, that whatsoever the Pope shall Institute anew, whether within or without the Scripture, and also whatsoever he shall Command, to be Divine and Saving; and therefore to be more esteemed than the Precepts of the Living God by all Lay-people.

V. We Confess the most holy Pope ought by all Men to be honoured with honour, with greater bowing of the Knee than is due to Christ himself.

VI. We Confess and Assert, that the Pope ought to be heard by all Men in all things, as the most Holy Father, without exception, according to the Direction of his Institutions, and whosoever shall do on the contrary; such Hereticks, without pity, are not only to be Burnt, but both Body and Soul to be Cast into Hell.

VII. We Confess that the Reading of the sacred Scripture is the rise of Heresie and Sects, and the original of Blasphemies.

VIII. We Confess that it is good, profitable, holy, and saving, to pray to Saints, whether Men or Women, that are Dead, to honour their Images, to bow the Knee before them, to go on Pilgrimage to them, to cloath them, and burn lights to them.

IX. We Confess that every Priest is much greater than the Virgin *Mary* the Mother of God, which only once brought forth Christ and no more; but the Roman Priest, not only while he will, but when he will, offers and makes Christ, and also being Created consumes him.

X. We Confess that it is profitable and saving to Celebrate Masses, to give Alms, and to pray for the Dead.

XI. We Confess the Roman Pope to have power at his pleasure to change the Scripture, or to add to it or diminish from it.

XII. We Confess that Souls after Death are purged in *Purgatory*, and the Masses of Priests are helpful for their Deliverance.

XIII. We Confess that it is good and saving to partake of the *Eucharist* under one kind, but to partake in both kinds is Heretical and Damnable.

XIV. We Confess and Assert, that those who use to partake in one kind, do use and partake of whole Christ with his Flesh and Blood, and with his Deity and Bones, but those who partake under both kinds, only feed upon and enjoy the bread.

XV. We Confess that there are Seven Real and true Sacraments.

XVI. We Confess that God is honoured in Images, and by them is owned of Men.

XVII. We Confess that the blessed Virgin *Mary* is worthy of more honour from Men and Angels than Christ the Son of God.

XVIII. We Confess that the blessed Virgin *Mary* is the Queen of Heaven; and that she reigns, together with her Son, according to whose pleasure the Son ought to do all things.

XIX. We Confess that the Bones of the Saints have great virtue, wherefore they should be honoured by Men, and have Chapels built to them.

XX. We Confess the Roman Doctrine to be Catholick and Pure, Divine, Saving, Ancient and True; but the Evangelical Doctrine (from which we freely recede) to be false, erroneous, blasphemous, curied, heretical, damnable, seditious, and wicked, devised and feigned; wherefore, seeing the Roman Religion under one kind is wholly and fully saving and good, therefore we Curse all those who instructed us in that Heresie, as perverse and wicked under both kinds; we pronounce our Parents accursed, which Educated us in that Heretical Faith, and we Curse them which caused us to doubt of the *Roman Catholick Faith*; likewise those too which administered to us of that cursed Cup: Yea, we Curse our own selves, and do pronounce our selves accursed, because we did partake of that Cursed and Heretical Cup of which we ought not to have done.

XXI. We Confess that the Holy Scripture is imperfect and a dead Letter, so far as it is not explained by the Pope, and granted by him to be read by the Lay people.

XXII. We Confess that one Mass of the Roman Priest is more profitable than a hundred and more Sermons of the Evangelical Ministers, and therefore we Curse those Books which we have read, which contain that Heretical and Blasphemous Doctrine, and we bring a Curse upon all those Works committed while we abode in that Heretical Faith, lest they should procure any thing to us before God in the last Day.

XXIII. We do all these things out of a pure heart, asserting that the Roman Church, in these and the like Articles, is most true, with a solemn renunciation of that Heretical Doctrine, before you, Reverend Lords and Fathers, before you, honourable Men, honourable Matrons, young Men and Virgins present; and moreover, we swear we will not, as long as we live, though it might be lawful for us, turn again to that Heretical Doctrine under both kinds, and we do also swear that so long as a drop of blood remains in our Bodies, we will persecute that cursed Evangelical Doctrine, every way both openly and secretly, violently and frequently, by Word and Deed, and by the Sword also.

Last of all, we Swear (on supposition that a change happen, either in the Temporal or Spiritual State abroad) before God, Angels, and you present, that we will never for fear or favour, depart from this saving *Roman Catholick Faith* and *Holy Church*, nor ever return to embrace that cursed Evangelical Heresie.